



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE arrests restaurant owner and eight illegal workers in worksite enforcement investigation

RADCLIFF, Ky. — A Chinese restaurant owner and eight illegal alien workers that he was housing and transporting to and from work were arrested here early Wednesday morning as a result of a worksite enforcement investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Louisville ICE agents executed two federal search warrants May 10 at Golden China Buffet, 597 W. Lincoln Trail Blvd., and a residence located at 713 Wilma Ave. Jian Lin, the 32-year-old restaurant owner, and five illegal Chinese workers were arrested at the restaurant on immigration violations. Three other illegal workers — one Chinese and two Mexican — were arrested at the Wilma Avenue residence that is owned by Lin and was used to house his workers.

Lin and the eight illegal workers are currently in ICE custody and being processed; they will be placed into removal proceedings.

"ICE is aggressively targeting those employers that knowingly employ an illegal alien workforce," said Julie L. Myers, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary for ICE. "Today's enforcement action demonstrates how we use all our investigative tools to go after those who take advantage of illegal labor to make a profit."

The investigation began after ICE received a tip that Chinese nationals were being transported by bus and van to various restaurant locations in the Louisville Metro area. This is an ongoing investigation, which has been presented to the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky for prosecution.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

RECENT ICE WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT CASES

Today's enforcement action is the latest in ICE's ongoing efforts to target illegal employment practices through criminal investigations, prosecutions, and asset seizures. Last fiscal year, ICE worksite investigations resulted in 127 criminal convictions and a total of 1,145 arrests, up from 46 criminal convictions and 845 arrests the previous year. Below is a sample of ICE worksite enforcement cases brought in the past month.

- On May 9, 2006, ICE agents arrested four supervisors of Fischer Homes Inc., a Kentucky-based homebuilder, on criminal charges of harboring illegal aliens. In addition, agents apprehended 76 illegal alien workers at several Fischer Homes construction sites in Kentucky. Each of the defendants is charged in a criminal complaint with aiding and abetting, harboring illegal aliens for commercial advantage or private financial gain. The maximum possible punishment for the crime charged is up to 10 years imprisonment, \$250,000 or both. Headquartered in Kentucky, Fischer Homes is a leading builder of homes in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio.
- On May 2, 2006, Robert Porcisanu, the owner of an Indiana business that performed stucco-related services at construction sites in at least seven Midwest states was charged with money laundering, harboring illegal aliens, transporting illegal aliens, and false statements in connection with an illegal employment scheme. Porcisanu faces as many as 40 years in prison. ICE is also seeking the forfeiture of \$1.4 million. His firm was allegedly able to undercut the bids of contractors to perform work at construction sites by taking advantage of cheap labor costs from the use of illegal alien employees.
- On April 19, 2006, ICE agents arrested seven current and former managers of IFCO Systems North America Inc, pursuant to criminal complaints in Albany, New York, charging them with harboring illegal aliens for financial gain. ICE agents also apprehended 1,187 of the firm's illegal alien employees during search warrants and consent searches executed at more than 40 IFCO locations nationwide. The arrests were the result of a year-long investigation of IFCO, which determined that more than half of IFCO's employees during 2005 had invalid or mismatched Social Security numbers. IFCO is the largest pallet services company in the United States, based in Houston, Texas.
- On April 14, 2006, the operators of Baltimore's best-known sushi restaurants agreed to forfeit more than \$1 million and pleaded guilty to criminal charges of conspiracy to commit alien harboring and money laundering in connection with an illegal alien employment scheme. The investigation found that the operators of the three Kawasaki restaurants in Baltimore exploited cheap, illegal labor to maximize profits in order to purchase new homes and luxury vehicles for themselves.
- On April 11, 2006, a federal indictment was unsealed in Ohio charging two temporary employment agencies and nine individuals with hiring and harboring illegal aliens; mail and wire fraud; and laundering approximately \$5.3 million. The indictment alleged that HV Connect, Inc., and TN Job Service, Inc. provided hundreds of illegal alien employees to unwitting companies in Ohio by falsely representing that they were legal. The indictment also alleged that the owners of these agencies used the profits from this scheme build a new home and purchase jewelry for themselves.